

Remarks/Arguments

In the December 29, 2006 office action, the drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner stated that the pivotably mounted chassis, as per claim 17, must be shown or cancelled from the claim. Claim 18 was objected to because the combination of the terms “only” and “at least” left unclear whether the cutting unit is pivotable on one axis or more than one axes. Claims 11, 12, 17 and 18 were rejected under section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akgulian et al (US 3,731,469) in view of Ronning (US 1,957,079) and Johnson (US 3,177,638). Claim 13 was rejected under section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akgulian et al, Ronning and Johnson, in view of Worthington (US 1,330,293). Claim 15 was rejected under section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akgulian et al, Ronning and Johnson, in view of Doeple et al (US 3,885,547). Claim 16 was rejected under section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akgulian et al, Ronning and Johnson, in view of Gerzanich (US Patent 4,341,059).

In response to the objection to the drawing, claim 17 is cancelled.

In response to the objection to claim 18, the term “only” is deleted from the claim.

In response to the rejection of claim 11, 12 , 17 and 18, claim 11 is amended to specify the rear wheels have a track width greater than the track width of the front wheels, and the pivotable arms in the second row can raise and rotate two of the cutting units to a full vertical position within the track width of the rear wheels. Claim 11 is patentable over Akgulian et al, Ronning and Johnson.

Akgulian et al fails to disclose rear wheels having a track width less than front wheels 12. Akgulian et al fails to disclose raising mowers 11 to a position within the track of the rear wheels. Akgulian fails to disclose a center cutting unit (of mowers 11) positioned between and having a width less than the distance between the left and right rails.

Ronning fails to disclose raising mower units C, D or E to a position within the track width of rear wheels 12. Ronning also fails to disclose mower units behind the front axles.

Johnson fails to disclose raising mower heads C, C' to a position within the track width of rear wheels 12. Johnson also fails to disclose a center cutting unit positioned between and having a width less than the distance between the left and

right rails.

Claims 12, 13, 15, 16 and 18 are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 11.

In conclusion, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Any fees or charges due as a result of filing of the present paper may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525.

Respectfully,

/SDellett#32,564/

Stephen D. Dellett
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Stephen D. Dellett
Reg. No. 32,564
Patent Department
Deere & Company
One John Deere Place
Moline, IL 61265
Telephone No. (309) 765-4232